

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

AID-05 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

OMB-01 INT-05 ( ISO ) W

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R 300725Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6841

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS GABORONE 1007

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BC

SUBJECT: GABORONE TRADE FAIR OPENING AND CLOSING SPEECHES:  
FREE ENTERPRISE AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT SUPPORTED

GENEVA FOR MTN COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: THE ANNUAL GABORONE TRADE FAIR WAS THE  
OCCASION FOR TWO MAJOR POLICY ADDRESSES BY VICE PRESIDENT  
Q.K.J. MASIRE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY G.K.T.  
CHIEPE ON BUSINESS IN GENERAL AND INVESTMENT AND TRADE IN  
PARTICULAR. BOTH SPEECHES EMPHASIZED THE FREE ENTERPRISE  
ORIENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND ENCOURAGED  
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INCREASED INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITH AND WITHIN BOTSWANA.

THE VICE PRESIDENT TOOK THE OCCASION TO MENTION THE INTENTION OF OICI TO BEGIN A TRAINING PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. VICE PRESIDENT Q.K.J. MASIRE OPENED THE ANNUAL GABORONE TRADE FAIR ON JULY 25, WITH A MAJOR ADDRESS ON BOTSWANA ECONOMIC POLICY. MASIRE LISTED SEVERAL MAJOR INDUSTRIAL EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE ORAPA DIAMOND MINE, SELEBI-PIKWE COPPER-NICKEL MINE, THE MORAPULE COAL MINE AND A NUMBER OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, CITING THEM AS EXAMPLES OF THE FACT THAT BOTSWANA HAS ATTRACTED PRIVATE INVESTMENT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT QUOTE MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ANY NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION IS POLITICAL STABILITY, FOR INVESTORS ARE NATURALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THEIR INVESTMENTS. END QUOTE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, QUOTE, WE BATSWANA CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT WE ARE A STABLE DEMOCRATIC AND FREE SOCIETY AND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS POPULARLY ELECTED THROUGH A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT POPULARLY ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA, IRRESPECTIVE OF COLOR, CREED OR SOCIAL STATUS, WHICH, OF COURSE, IS WHAT THE WORLD EXPECTS OF A DEMOCRACY. END QUOTE.

3. THE VICE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE HISTORIC BACKGROUND LEADING TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF BOTSWANA NOTING THAT IN SOME RESPECTS, BOTSWANA WAS FORTUNATE NOT TO HAVE HAD A DEVELOPED ECONOMY SINCE IN SUCH CASE QUOTE I AM SURE A MR SMITH WOULD HAVE TAKEN OVER... AND MOST OF US WOULD EITHER BE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR LOCKED UP IN PRISON IN SOME REMOTE PART OF THE COUNTRY. END QUOTE. HE THEN OUTLINED THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HE SAID QUOTE IS AIMED AT THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR MINERAL RESOURCES, THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUR LAND ON A SUSTAINED BASIS. THE CONSERVATION AND MAXIMIZATION OF BENEFITS FROM OUR WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THE INCREASED QUALITY AND BETTER EARNING FROM OUR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. END QUOTE.

4. THE VICE PRESIDENT THEN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOTSWANA ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT UNIT (BEDU) WHICH HE SAID QUOTE REPRESENTS AN IDEAL THAT IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR YOUNG NATION THAN MANY PEOPLE REALIZE.... YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE BATSWANA AS EMPLOYER, BATSWANA AS OWNERS OF INDU-  
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STRY THAT CAN MANUFACTURE GOODS FOR THE INTERNAL AS WELL AS FOR EXTERNAL MARKETS. END QUOTE. HE WENT ON, IN ADDITION, TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. HE SAID THAT QUOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEDU IS NOT, HOWEVER, INTENDED AS A DETERRENT TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT.... HE STRESSED THAT QUOTE FOREIGN INVESTORS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO SEE THAT GOVERNMENT IS INTENDING TO DEVELOP FREE ENTERPRISE AMONGST OURSELVES. END QUOTE.

5. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO DEVELOP MANPOWER, HE MENTIONED THE AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS INTERNATIONAL (OICI) (SEPTTEL).

6. IN CONCLUSION, HE VOICED THE HOPE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FAIR AND SAID THAT THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP IS FOR THE FAIR COMMITTEE TO BE MADE UP OF BOTH PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT.

7. IN CLOSING THE FAIR ON JULY 26, DR.G.K.T. CHIEPE, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, REITERATED THE VICEPRESIDENT'S ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. SHE ALSO EMPHASIZED MORE LOCAL CONCERN,PARTICULARLY REGARDING PERSONS WHO HOLD INDUSTRIAL LICENSES AND HAVE USED THEM ONLY TO IMPORT GOODS FOR RETAIL. SHE CRITICIZED THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR FOR POOR QUALITY GOODS AND SERVICES AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NO NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD YET BEEN FORMED.

8. SHE REITERATED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF BEDU WHICH, SHE SAID COULD PROVIDE AN EXTENSION SERVICE (I.E. ADVISORY AND TRAINING) TO BOTSWANA BUSINESSMEN.

9. IN THE BROADER CONTEXT, MINISTER CHIEPE SAID THAT QUOTE BOTSWANA WELCOMES AND ENCOURAGES PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. END QUOTE. SHE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A QUOTE WONDERFUL PLATFORM FOR THE SERIOUS INVESTOR. ALL GOODS MANUFACTURED IN BOTSWANA CAN BE FREELY MARKETING IN THE CUSTOMS UNION AREA WHICH EMBODIES BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, SWAZILAND AND SOUTH AFRICA END QUOTE, WHERE A MARKET FOR OVER 20 MILLION PEOPLE SPENDS OVER 3 BILLION DOLLARS ON IMPORTED MANUFACTURED GOODS. SHE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT QUOTE BOTSWANA IS STRATEGICALLY PLACED AS A GATEWAY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE REST OF AFRICA FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS. THE BOTSWANA/ZAMBIA ROAD IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WHEN FINISHED, BOTSWANA INDUSTRIALISTS WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MARKET THEIR GOODS NORTH OF US WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL PREJUDICE. END QUOTE. DR. CHIEPE ALSO NOTED THAT BOTSWANA AS A SIGNATORY TO LOME CONVENTION HAS ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY QUOTE DUTY-FREE MARKET OF OVER 300 MILLION PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

10. COMMENT: THESE TWO SPEECHES, BEFORE LARGE AUDIENCES OF LOCAL CITIZENS AS WELL AS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, WERE DELIVERED TO REITERATE BOTSWANA'S COMMITMENT TO FREE ENTERPRISE AND DESIRE TO ATTRACT MORE PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. TEXTS OF BOTH SPEECH BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.  
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